

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 152

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Olen Bryant for meritorious service in the arts to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those talented citizens of this State whose creative abilities find outlet and expression through art; and

WHEREAS, one such highly talented and creative Tennessean is Memphis artist Olen Littleton Bryant, whose contribution to the art world has helped guide and influence directions, trends, and aesthetic practices within Tennessee's artistic communities; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional artist is also an art scholar; he earned his Bachelor's degree from Murray State University and his Master's degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the United States Army as an Occupational Therapy Technician, Mr. Bryant continued his studies at the Institute Allende, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and the Art Student's League; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cookeville, Mr. Bryant has seen fit to share with others his talent and his expertise as an art instructor at Union University and Austin Peay State University (APSU), where he holds the position of Professor Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure at APSU, he influenced untold numbers of students, many of whom are practicing artists in Tennessee today; and

WHEREAS, Olen Bryant's work has been included in public and private collections and has been exhibited in solo and group shows across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryant not only creates and teaches art, he also provides for the support of other artists; he is a founding member of the Nashville Artists Guild and the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Olen Bryant has received the 2007 Governor's Distinguished Artist Award; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Olen Littleton Bryant for his dedication to the arts in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Olen Littleton Bryant for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee as an artist of singular talent and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.